

**PARK BOARD MEETING
Foster Community Center
January 11, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Veronica Gracia-Wing, Jim McClurken, Rita O'Brien, Clayton King, Bryan Beverly, Paulette, Carter-Scott, Rick Kibbey (late arrival)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rosalinda Hernandez

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Scott Keith, LEPFA; Matthias Bell and David Potts, Moores Park Neighborhood Organization (MPNO)

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:04 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Brett Kaschinske added BWL Substation Charette meeting date information to updates

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

Matthias Bell, MPNO, stated MPNO will be submitting an adopt-a-park application to the Parks Department for Moores Park.

Bell inquired if the pool is being closed and if so is there a timeline. They are hoping to do more with the park. MPNO did a survey and the neighbors are interested in the park, they have ideas and want to work with the Parks Department on the next steps.

Brett Kaschinske stated at the October Park Board meeting Natalie Molnar presented a master plan for Moores Park.

Kaschinske stated he was at the park today to review the proposed plans. He has sent his letter of support for the NAB grant and will look into grants for the kayak launch. However, he is not comfortable with putting the launch above the dam.

Bell stated MPNO is also submitting an application for the Love Your Block Grant for way finding signs.

Kaschinske stated we are looking at countywide way finding signage for the entire trail utilizing countywide millage funds.

Veronica Gracia-Wing recommended Kaschinske attend a neighborhood meeting to share information and MPNO contact the department when they plan to attend a Park Board meeting to be placed on the agenda.

Kaschinske stated the pool closed at the end of the season without any problems. He expects the pool will open in June with no issues.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Rita O'Brien moved to approve the November 9, 2016 and December 14, 2016 minutes as submitted. Seconded by Paulette Carter-Scott. 6 yeas; 0 nays

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Kaschinske provided copies of Groesbeck's budget to board members.

Scott Keith stated LEPFA has a contract to operate events for the City. He has been involved since discussions started years ago when the city was looking at privatization of Groesbeck.

LEPFA currently has an agreement for concessions at Groesbeck and marketing of Groesbeck. Fifty percent of the net goes to the city and this year that amount was approximately \$9,000.

Keith stated there are three options: not having an entrance in a residential neighborhood, a 2,000 square foot clubhouse and a 10,000 square foot facility.

Keith stated the demand for space for meetings has diminished and to compete with a facility such as Eagle Eye Golf Club, Groesbeck just is not there.

With the 10,000 square foot facility, about one-half would be available for banquet space. This would accommodate 200 people at 8 foot round tables. Events would be about \$30-\$50 a head for dinner and drinks and not many of these would be held, but would include weddings, showers, social events and maybe net \$80,000 annual revenue.

The Lugnuts View area hosted 120 events in 2016 and grossed \$200,000.

Banquets are approximately 60 percent goods and 35 to 40 percent revenue. Groesbeck may make \$30,000 to \$40,000 on banquet facilities. This could be a \$4,000,000 project and would be a long time payoff.

Groesbeck has great opportunities, but lacks amenities such as a new entrance, clubhouse updates, driving/practice range and a place to sit and eat.

The 2,000 square foot option replaces what is there and would need to put in the driving/practice range and a golf pro.

Rita O'Brien inquired what is a golf pro.

Keith stated a golf pro is someone who specializes in and teaches golf.

Kaschinske reviewed the budget line items.

Gib King stated he does not understand why the course cannot operate at cost or with a profit.

Kaschinske explained the expenditures of wages and fringe benefits, which covers full time, three-quarter time staff (this individual spends nine months in golf and 3 months in Public Service), temporary staff and seasonal staff.

King inquired if there has been discussion on having a company run the golf course.

Kaschinske stated yes that was looked into several years ago and it would still require a subsidy. The course cannot be sold due to the land being granted to the City.

Gracia-Wing stated she did not have comparisons for the wages, but the \$525,000 is a large amount.

Paulette Carter-Scott stated she plays golf at Groesbeck and is shocked by the amount of wages and the course seems to be overstaffed. She stated the golf carts are older and the bathrooms are not in the best condition.

Keith stated if you want to host outings, a driving range and golf carts are essential.

Keith stated the leagues are doing well; golf play is down overall everywhere. They have seen an increase in international college students playing.

O'Brien inquired what has been done to advertise the course as an event space and for golf.

Keith stated there currently is a gathering space but no event space. They currently advertise through print media, TV, radio and social media.

Gracia-Wing inquired what international marketing has been done.

Gracia-Wing reiterated the new options include looking at a new entrance location, deck, driving/practice range and clubhouse improvements. She would like to see a feasibility report on cost involved and revenue.

O'Brien would like to see an increase in the marketing budget.

Kaschinske stated he has assigned Joe Wright to cost out decking and the cost of the entrance has not changed.

Gracia-Wing stated it may be time to explore a management agreement. The last issue is the employee budget and can an analysis on the need of staff (ie: two golf cart attendants) be done.

Carter-Scott inquired if there is a way to have an automated system to check out carts.

Kaschinske stated there is currently a sign out system which has a waiver and it would also need to go through an insurance review.

Jim McClurken stated he has concerns about taking money from other parks for the course and would it ever break even.

Keith stated he does not believe so

O'Brien inquired when the last time a survey was done.

Kaschinske stated he would need to check with the golf manager.

O'Brien asked if the board could review the questions prior to the survey being distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

Willard Walker Stadium

Brett Kaschinske referred to the resolution in the packet. The board originally voted on the application to re-name St. Joe Park, since that time discussion has taken place to name the new sports stadium at Risdale Park the Willard Walker Stadium.

Bryan Beverly moved to accept naming the sports stadium at Risdale Park as the Willard Walker Stadium; seconded by Rick Kibbey. 7 yeas; 0 nays

Motion carried.

Bancroft

Brett Kaschinske stated he met with Eastside Neighborhood Organization and Friends of Bancroft to review the project. The lower loop will still be paved to allow parking and the playground equipment will be moved to the lower area. Connecting the trail will not allow vehicle traffic.

Kaschinske referred to Donna Timm's comments from the December meeting and the Friends did not oppose or approve this project.

Jim McClurken and Rita O'Brien both referred to Facebook posts stating the Friends are neither for nor against this.

Rick Kibbey inquired if maintenance vehicles are allowed.

Kaschinske stated yes that the bollards are removable to allow access for maintenance vehicles.

O'Brien stated other feedback was the letter sent to the board members about a continuous loop.

Veronica Gracia-Wing stated this does not have to be decided on by the Board and could be deferred to administration.

Gib King inquired if a vote helps.

Kaschinske stated yes.

Gib King moved to approve moving the playground; seconded by Jim McClurken. 7 yeas; 0 nays

Motion carried.

UPDATES

CWD

Jim McClurken found a person (Steve ~~Braille~~ Vrla) who specializes in surveys and has been involved with Ann Arbor and East Lansing. He is a PhD candidate at MSU has a degree in sociology, animal science and a teaching degree. He was recommended as a survey producer.

McClurken stated the Ann Arbor and United States Humane Societies damned the surveys because they were biased. The surveys were sent to Steve who saw the bias immediately.

There is a public perception problem. Steve could do the survey this summer for a stipend.

Brett Kaschinske inquired how much would the stipend be. McClurken did not know at this time.

Kaschinske reviewed the report on the number of deer tested in the area from June 1, 2016 through November 2016.

Gib King recommended board members visit <https://deeradvisor.dnr.cornell.edu> case studies between communities and reports. The reports did not have CWD, but there is nothing saying it cannot cross over to livestock.

Veronica Gracia-Wing stated she is looking for option from the sub-committee.

Sub-committee will meet to follow up.

Foster Park

Jerry Smith was at the December meeting and he has reached out to the neighborhood. There is a meeting at the Allen Neighborhood Center on January 13 with groups who utilize Foster Park.

Boat Club

Brett Kaschinske stated the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has scored the City of Lansing's application to acquire the boat club property the highest in the state.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary
Approved February 8, 2017